

TAMPA BAY HOTEL

401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa

This preposterous architectural fantasy combining Moorish and Turkish motifs was built in 1888-1891 as one of Florida's largest resort hotels. Its complex brick facade stretches 900 feet, and 13 crescent-capped minarets provide a bristling silhouette. In 1898 it became headquarters for U.S. Army forces that invaded Cuba in the Spanish-American War and a news center for journalists covering events of the conflict. Since 1933 it has served as classrooms and offices for the University of Tampa.